

MISSION HILLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation

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December 22, 2024

~ Fourth Sunday of Advent ~

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE "An Advent Meditation" - David Lasky

THE BELL

POEM "Modern Magnificat" - Joy Cowley

SONG "Now the Heavens Start to Whisper" [page 6](#)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE – LOVE

One: With rising anticipation, we sense the fullness of time coming near.

All: In the east, the sky warms with gathering dawn.

One: Angel voices rise in preparation, encouraging us...

All: Love is coming, love is already here.

*SONG "Lift Up Your Heads"

1 Lift up your heads, O might-y gates; be-hold the glo - rious Rul - er waits!
2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a tem - ple, set a - part
3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here, Christ, a - bide!
4 So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and no - bler life be - gin;

The Sov - ereign One is draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
From earth - ly use for heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
Let me your in - ner pres - ence feel; your grace and love in me re - veal.
Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

By Georg Weissel, transl by Catherine Winkworth | Tune "TRURO" from Thomas Williams' *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

email requests to: prayer@missionhillsucc.org

*indicates all who are able, please stand

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

RESPONSE

“Of the Maker’s Love Begotten”



1 Of the Mak - er's heart be - got - ten when the worlds were yet to be,
2 By this Word was all cre - a - ted, by this Word were all things done:



One there was with no be - gin - ning, One who is e - ter - nal - ly—
Land and air and deep - est o - cean, har - mo - ny of three in one,



Source and End - ing of all things that have been,
And all grow - ing in the lu - - - mi - nance



and all things that are to be, for - ev - er and for - ev - er.
shed forth from the moon and sun, for - ev - er and for - ev - er.

Text by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, transl John M. Neal & Henry Williams Baker | Tune “DIVINUM MYSTERIUM” Plainsong, Mode V

ANTHEM

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

- arr. Allen Pote

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*RESPONSE

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”

[page 7](#)

THE READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Psalm 80:1-7

[\(click here to follow along\)](#)

THE READING FROM THE GOSPEL Luke 1:39-55

[\(click here to follow along\)](#)

SERMON

“Yes, She Knew”

SONG

“Remember Mercy”

- by The Many

COMMUNITY BUILDING – Announcements

FAITH IN ACTION

UCC Hurricane Relief

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“The Angel Gabriel”

SONG

“Joy to the World”

1 Joy to the world! the Lord will come: let earth its
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

prais - es bring; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Christ room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of God's righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 and won - ders of God's love, and won - ders of God's

and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re -
 and won - ders of God's love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of God's love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound-ing joy,
 won - ders of God's love,

Text by Isaac Watts | Tune “ANTIOCH” by George Frideric Handel arr Lowell Mason

*BENEDICTION

*AFFIRMATION

“Come O Long Expected Jesus”

Come, O long ex - spect - ed Je sus,
born to free your peo - ple a - new;
from our an - ger and fear re - lease us,
let us find our rest in you.
God our strength and con - sol - a - tion,
hope of all the earth you are;
dear de - sire of ev - er - y na tion,
joy of ev - er - y long - ing heart.

Text by Charles Wesley | Tune “HYFRYDOL” by Rowland H. Prichard

POSTLUDE

“Noel Étranger”

- Louis Claude D’Aquin

*The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory of God
in celebration of Holiday season by Al Mazur and Rob Granat.*

Welcome to all worshipping with us today. If you are new to Mission Hills UCC, we invite you to fill out the blue card in the pew so we can get to know you and share more about our ministries and community life. We are a church that welcomes families with children in every aspect of our common life. During worship, child care services are available in the church nursery for those under three years of age. Baby changing tables are available in the unisex bathrooms.

<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Dr. David Bahr
<i>Minister for Congregational Care</i>	Rev. Courtney Mys
<i>Liturgist</i>	Barbara Christensen
<i>Director of Instrumental Music</i>	Kristopher Abels
<i>Director of Vocal Music</i>	Angelica Eclar
<i>Director of Ministry with Children and Families</i>	Artcel Ruiz
<i>Director of Ministry with Youth</i>	Fiona Case
<i>Worship Technologies Coordinator</i>	Saige Afalava
<i>Worship Technical Assistants</i>	Devin Buss & Trevor Norkowski
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	Elizabeth Quiñones
<i>Sexton</i>	Gloria Schacht
<i>Nursery Attendants</i>	Jianna Ruiz & Amelia Norkowski
<i>ASL Interpreter</i>	Sendy Medina

Mission Hills UCC - Upcoming Events

December	Mission Partner: UCC Hurricane Relief
Tuesday, 12/24	Christmas Eve Service, 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service, 8:00 pm
January	
Friday, 1/3	Knitting 2 Give, 10 am - 12 pm, Commons
Sunday, 1/5	Transforming Aging with Your Inner Voice, Commons, 3-5 pm
Wednesday, 1/8	Lunch with Pastor, 12 pm, Commons 15 Minutes of Gratitude, zoom, 6 pm
Sunday, 1/12	Baptism Renewal Transforming Aging with Your Inner Voice, Commons, 3-5 pm
Wednesday, 1/15	15 Minutes of Gratitude, zoom, 6 pm
Thursday, 1/16	Knitting 2 Give, 2-4 pm, Commons
Sunday, 1/19	MLK Sunday Transforming Aging with Your Inner Voice, Commons, 3-5 pm
Tuesday, 1/21	Feeding Mission Hills Food Distribution, 10:30 am
Wednesday, 1/22	15 Minutes of Gratitude, zoom, 6 pm
Saturday, 1/25	Youth annual fundraising event
Sunday, 1/26	Congregational Meeting, after worship Transforming Aging with Your Inner Voice, Commons, 3-5 pm
Wednesday, 1/29	15 Minutes of Gratitude, zoom, 6 pm

Every Week:

Sundays -	ReExamining Our Faith Book Study - 9 am - Commons
Tuesdays -	Men's Group - 6:30 pm - Commons
Thursdays -	Lunch and Lectionary Bible Study - Noon - Zoom Choir Rehearsal - 7 pm, Chapel
Saturdays -	Gentle Yoga - 10 am, Chapel

For all events, visit our online calendar: <https://missionhillsucc.org/calendar-of-events/>

"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

Solo 1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
All 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to
All 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

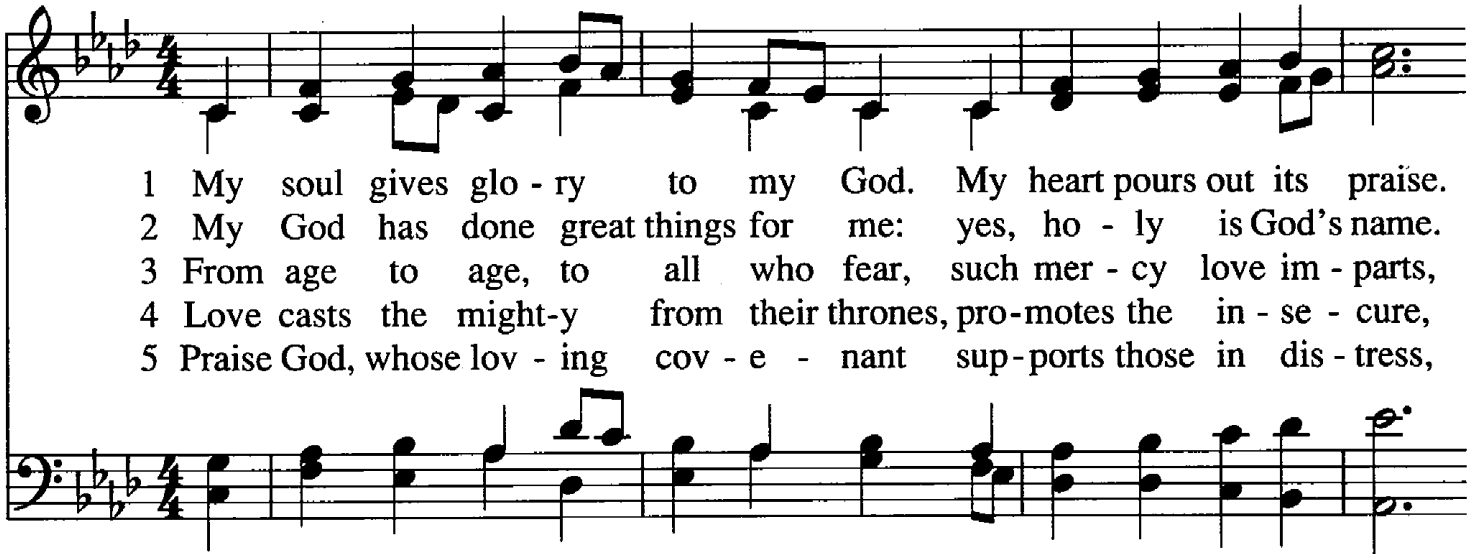
grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance

to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

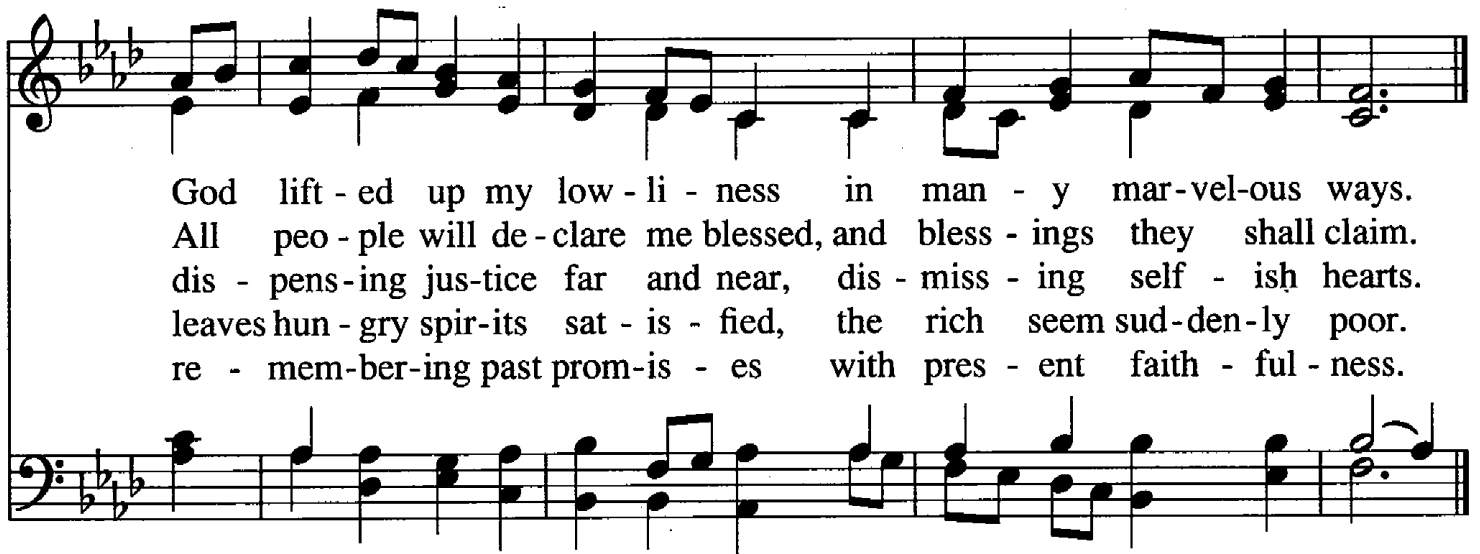
plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to

neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”



1 My soul gives glo - ry to my God. My heart pours out its praise.
2 My God has done great things for me: yes, ho - ly is God's name.
3 From age to age, to all who fear, such mer - cy love im - parts,
4 Love casts the might-y from their thrones, pro-motes the in - se - cure,
5 Praise God, whose lov - ing cov - e - nant sup-ports those in dis - tress,



God lift - ed up my low - li - ness in man - y mar-vel-ous ways.
All peo - ple will de - clare me blessed, and bless - ings they shall claim.
dis - pens-ing jus-tice far and near, dis - miss - ing self - ish hearts.
leaves hun - gry spir-its sat - is - fied, the rich seem sud - den - ly poor.
re - mem-ber-ing past prom - is - es with pres - ent faith - ful - ness.

By Miriam Therese Winter | Tune “MORNING SONG” by C. Winfred Douglas | Text © 1978, 1987 Medical Mission Sisters

Merry Christmas from Mission Hills United Church of Christ



Join us this Christmas!

Christmas Eve, December 24

4:30 p.m. - Family Service with Christmas carols and candlelight.

8:00 p.m. - Lessons and Carols:
During this traditional candlelight service, we hear the Christmas story and sing beautiful anthems and carols.

**Pictures from last week's -
"The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"**



"The Herdman's were absolutely the worst kids in the history of the world"



"Hey! Unto you a child is born"



It WAS the best Christmas Pageant Ever!

